

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
ARIZONA STRIP FIELD OFFICE  
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW**

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**CX-AZ-130-2005-0057**

**PROJECT TITLE:** Mt. Bangs Fire Complex Emergency Stabilization

**PROJECT LEAD:** Hilary Boyd

**PROPOSED ACTION:** The proposed action is to implement emergency post-fire stabilization measures by aerially seeding parts of the Mt. Bangs component of the Mt. Bangs Fire Complex (approximately 9,000 acres of the 29,593 acres burned) in the Mojave and Great Basin/Mojave transition vegetation communities; and to defer the seeded areas from livestock grazing for two growing seasons to provide for seedling establishment and achievement of vegetation cover objectives.

The following is the proposed seed mix and rate to be applied:

<u>Native Species</u>	<u>lbs/ac</u>
Galleta Grass, Viva ( <i>Hilaria jamesii</i> )	0.5
Sideoats Grama, Niner or Vaughn ( <i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i> )	1.0
Sand Dropseed ( <i>Sporobolus cryptandrus</i> )	0.25
Blue Grama, Alma or Hachita ( <i>Bouteloua gracilis</i> )	1.0
Indian Ricegrass, Paloma ( <i>Oryzopsis hymenoides</i> )	0.25
Thick Spike Wheatgrass, Critana ( <i>Elymus lanceolatus</i> )	2.0
Western Wheatgrass ( <i>Pascopyrum smitii</i> )	0.5

<u>Non-Native Species</u>	<u>lbs/ac</u>
Small Burnet, Delar ( <i>Sanguisorba minor</i> )	2.0
Blue Flax, Appar ( <i>Linum perenne</i> )	0.5
Russian Wildrye, Bozoiisky ( <i>Psathyrostachys juncea</i> )	1.0
Siberian Wheatgrass, Vavilov ( <i>Agropyron sibericum</i> )	1.0
Pubescent Wheatgrass, Luna ( <i>Elytrigia intermedium</i> )	0.25
Forage Kochia ( <i>Kochia prostrata</i> )	0.1
Yellow Sweetclover ( <i>Melilotus officinalis</i> )	0.25

Rock cliffs, rock talus slopes, and unburned islands of vegetation within the fire perimeter will not be seeded. Likewise, neither Wilderness, nor Critical Desert Tortoise Habitat will be treated.

Repair 0.5 miles of damaged perimeter fence, construct 3.5 miles of new fence, and install one cattle guard to protect the areas seeded until vegetation and cover objectives have been met.

Conduct Noxious Weed inventories.

Monitor vegetation objectives at Key Areas which have been treated, within the project area, using standard, currently and locally accepted monitoring protocol.

Affected grazing allotments include portions of:

Littlefield Community  
Mesquite

**LOCATION OF PROPOSED ACTION:** The proposed project area is located within the Grand Canyon – Parashant National Monument, plus 1,500 acres of Bighorn Sheep Habitat outside the monument. The area runs southwest to north east and generally runs southwest from the corral at the mouth of Elbow Canyon to the Lime Kiln road, up and over Lime Kiln Pass, then southeast to Brumley Well, northeast along Tom and Cull Canyon, past Cottonwood Spring, and northwest, back to the corral at the mouth of Elbow Canyon. (See Appendix 1. for legal description and map of project area.)

**PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW:**

The proposed action has been reviewed for conformance with the Arizona Strip District Resource Management Plan (1992), as amended in 1997 (Arizona Statewide Land Use Plan Amendment for Standards of Rangeland Health), 1998 (Mojave Desert Amendment) and 2003 (Arizona Statewide Land Use Plan Amendment for Fire, Fuels and Air Quality). The proposed action is in conformance with the RMP.

“WS01 Manage vegetation cover towards ecological stability and sound long-term protective soil cover using mechanical, chemical, biological or fire as tools for accomplishment.”

The proposed action has been reviewed for conformance with the Grand Canyon – Parashant National Monument Proclamation (2000) and determined to be in conformance with the Proclamation.

“Protection of cultural, social, biological, and physical resources for which the Monument was created will remain the highest priority in planning and management.”

“Conservation and restoration of a habitat mosaic that supports sustainable levels of a full range of native species, including predators, will be emphasized.”

The proposed action has been reviewed for conformance with the Grand Canyon – Parashant National Monument Interim Management Policy (2000) and determined to be in conformance with interim management policy.

“Livestock Grazing: Where applicable, livestock grazing within the Monument is permitted, pursuant to the terms of existing permits and leases. Permits in the Monument, will be in compliance with Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for grazing management.

“Noxious Weeds/Exotic Species: Existing noxious weed control activities should continue. Exotic Species should not be introduced, unless doing so is essential to control noxious weeds or other undesirable species.”

“Off-road Vehicles: For the purpose of protecting the objects identified in the Proclamation, no areas in the Monument should be authorized for cross-country, off-road vehicular use, except for authorized administrative and emergency purposes.”

"Vegetation Manipulation: Chaining and other methods that cause substantial surface disturbance shall not be permitted."

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW:** The proposed action is categorically excluded under 516 DM 6, Appendix 5.4 C. Forestry #3.

Seeding or reforestation of timber sales or burn areas where no chaining is done, no pesticides are used and there is no conversion of timber type or conversion of non-forest to forest land. Specific reforestation activities covered include: seeding and seedling plantings, shading, tubing (browse protection), application of non-toxic big game repellent, spot scalping, rodent trapping, fertilization of seed trees, fence construction around out-planting sites, and collection of pollen, scions, and cones.

The proposal has been reviewed to determine if any of the exceptions described in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, apply. Surname(s) verify completion of this review by appropriate specialists.

<b>NAME</b>	<b>LIST OF EXCLUSION CRITERIA</b>
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|-------|---|
| _____ | 1. The proposal would have no significant adverse effects on public health or safety: <u>Sandberg</u>   |
| _____ | 2. The proposal would not adversely affect unique geographic characteristics such as park, recreation, or refuge lands, wilderness areas, wilderness study areas, wild and scenic rivers, sole or principal drinking water aquifers, prime farmlands, wetlands, floodplains, or ecologically significant or critical areas, including those listed on the Department's National Register of Natural Landmarks. <u>Folks/Smith</u> |
| _____ | 3. The proposal would have no adverse effects on historic or cultural resources: <u>Herron</u>  |
| _____ | 4. The proposal would have no highly controversial environmental effects: <u>Sandberg</u>   |
| _____ | 5. The proposal would have no highly uncertain or potentially significant environmental effects nor does it involve unique or unknown environmental risks: <u>Sandberg</u>  |
| _____ | 6. The proposal would not establish a precedent for future action or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration with potentially significant environmental effects: <u>Boyd</u>  |
| _____ | 7. The proposal is not directly related to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant effects: <u>Boyd</u>   |
| _____ | 8. The proposal would not adversely affect properties listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places: <u>Herron</u>   |

- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. The proposal would not adversely affect a plant species listed or proposed to be listed on the list of endangered and threatened species, nor have adverse effects on designated critical habitat for these species: Hughes
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. The proposal would not adversely affect an animal species listed or proposed to be listed on the list of endangered and threatened species, nor have adverse effects on designated critical habitat for these species: Herder
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. The proposal would not require compliance with Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management), 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), or the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act: Herder/Smith
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. The proposal does not threaten to violate a federal, state, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment: Spotts/Benson
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. The proposal is in conformance with the Arizona Strip District Resource Management Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement (January, 1992) as amended, the Grand Canyon – Parashant National Monument Proclamation (2000), and the Monument Interim Management Policy. Sandberg

DECISION: We have reviewed this plan conformance and NEPA compliance record and have determined that the proposal is in conformance with the approved land use plan, Monument proclamation and interim management policy, and that it would have no significant environmental effects, and that no further environmental analysis is required.

REVIEWED BY: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
Environmental Coordinator - Arizona Strip District

IT IS MY DECISION TO IMPLEMENT THE PROPOSAL, AS DESCRIBED.

APPROVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
Monument Manager, Grand Canyon – Parashant National Monument

APPROVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
Field Office Manager, Arizona Strip Field Office

**Mt. Bangs Burn Stabilization**  
**Legal Descriptions**  
**Gila, Salt River Meridian**

**MT BANGS COMPONENT of Mt. Bangs Complex**

**T. 39 N., R.15 W.**

SECTIONS

8 W ½ SE ¼, NWSE, SW ¼, S ½ NW ¼  
17 SE ¼, NE ¼, N ½ NW ¼, SENW, E ½ SW ¼  
21 S ½, S ½ NW ¼, NWNW, S ½ NE ¼, NWNE  
20 ALL  
19 SE ¼, S ½ NE ¼, E ½ SW ¼, SWSW  
30 ALL  
29 ALL  
28 ALL  
27 S ½, W ½ NW ¼, SENE  
26 W ½ NW ¼, SENW, SW ¼  
25 S ½ SW ¼  
36 W ½ NW ¼, NENW, NWSW

**T. 39 N., R.16 W.**

SECTIONS

36 E ½ NE ¼, SE ¼, E ½ SW ¼, SWSW  
25 SESE

**T. 38 N., R.16 W.**

SECTIONS

1 ALL  
2 E ½ NE ¼, SWNE, SE ¼, S ½ SW ¼  
9 NE ¼, SE ¼, N ½ NW ¼, SENW, E ½ SW ¼  
10 S ½, NW ¼, S ½ NE ¼  
11 ALL  
12 ALL  
13 ALL  
14 ALL  
15 ALL  
16 E ½, E ½ NW ¼, E ½, SW ¼  
21 E ½, E ½ NW ¼, E ½ SW ¼  
22 ALL  
23 ALL  
24 ALL  
25 ALL  
26 ALL  
27 ALL  
34 E ½, E ½ NW ¼, E ½ SW ¼  
35 ALL  
36 ALL

**T. 38 N., R. 15 W.**

SECTIONS

2	W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , NENW
3	N $\frac{1}{2}$ , N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SWSW
4	ALL
5	ALL
6	ALL
7	ALL
8	ALL
9	ALL
10	W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , NWSW
16	N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SWNE, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , NWNW
17	NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SWSE
18	ALL
19	ALL
20	W $\frac{1}{2}$ , W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$
29	W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , NENW, NWSE
30	ALL
31	ALL

**T. 37 N., R.16 W.**

SECTIONS

1	ALL
2	ALL
3	E $\frac{1}{2}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$
10	NENE
11	N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SENE, N $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$
12	NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$
13	NE $\frac{1}{4}$

**T. 37 N., R.15 W.**

SECTIONS

6	N $\frac{1}{2}$ , N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SWNE, NWSE
7	W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , NENW